

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed on August 20, 2004. A Petition for Two-Month Extension of Time, and check for the requisite extension of time and additional independent claim fees, are submitted herewith. In the event any additional fees are necessary in connection with the present Amendment, kindly charge the cost thereof to our Deposit Account No. 13-2855.

Objections to the Drawings

The drawings were objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). According to the Office Action, the offset printing machine of claim 16 must be shown or the feature must be canceled from the claim. Inasmuch as claim 16 is now canceled, it is respectfully submitted that this objection is rendered moot.

The drawings were also objected to because two reference numerals in Figure 8 required correction. As indicated in the preceding section, a Replacement Sheet is attached in which the reference numerals in Figure 8 have been corrected.

Claim Objections

Claims 4, 8, 13 and 15 were objected to because of certain informalities. Claims 12-15 were objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper dependent form. Claim 4 has been canceled. In claims 8 and 15, the term "itself" has been deleted, as suggested. Claim 15 has also been amended by deleting "it" and substituting -- the front edge of the support plate --. Claims 12, 13, and 14 have been canceled, and claim 15 has been re-written in independent form. It is respectfully submitted that these claim amendments overcome, or render moot, the claim objections.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

Claims 12 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Rau, U.S. Patent No. 5,613,440. Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C.

§ 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Robert, U.S. Patent No. 6,101,942. While the Applicant makes no admission or concession as to the merits of these rejections, claims 12-14 have been canceled, without prejudice. These rejections are therefore considered moot for purposes of the instant application.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

Claims 1-5, 7, 9-10 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Schneider et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,561,094, in view of Robert, U.S. Patent No. 6,101,942. While the Applicant makes no admission or concession as to the merits of these rejections, claims 1, 4-5 and 16 have been canceled, without prejudice. These rejections are therefore considered moot as to these canceled claims for purposes of the instant application. Claims 2-3, 7, and 9-10 have been amended to depend from now-independent claim 6, which was indicated in the Office Action to be allowable. It is therefore respectfully submitted that these remaining dependent claims are likewise allowable.

Allowable Subject Matter


The Applicant notes, with appreciation, the indication in the Office Action that claims 6, 8, 11, and 15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. With the foregoing amendments, including amendments to claims 8 and 15 which are believed to overcome the objections to those claims, it is respectfully submitted that all claims pending in the application are now in condition for allowance.

New claims 18-25 have been added. New claims 18-21 correspond to the features of dependent claims 2, 3, 9 and 10, but depending from now-independent claim 8, and new claims 22-25 correspond to the features of dependent claims 2, 3, 9 and 10, but depending from now-independent claim 11. The Examiner's reconsideration and favorable action are respectfully solicited.

Appl. No. 10/666,210
Amdt. dated Jan. 7, 2005
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Respectfully submitted,


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